

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9650

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, ASIG
SUBJ: COMPLIANCE REPORT: RECOMMENDATION 6.3A-2

REF: A) KABUL 6179, B) STATE 193678

1. FOLLOWING ARE JOINT EMBASSY/USAID VIEWS OF SUBJECT
RECOMMENDATION:

2. NEITHER USAID NOR THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT PRACTICAL TO
CONSIDER A JAO OPERATION AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF THE MANY
DETAILS WHICH REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED.

3. THE USAID COMPOUND IS NOW ACROSS TOWN AND IS LIKELY TO
REMAIN THERE UNTIL THE LEASE EXPIRES IN JUNE 1980 OR POSSIBLY
LONGER. WHILE THE SEARCH FOR A SUITABLE SITE NEARER TO THE
EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE, SUCH PROPERTIES ARE RARE FINDS IN KABUL.
LEASE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE BUILDING WHICH WAS FOUND WITHIN
WALKING DISTANCE OF THE EMBASSY WERE TERMINATED AS THE HOST
GOVERNMENT LAID CLAIM TO IT. IT IS NOW OCCUPIED BY AFGHAN
BUSINESS MACHINES.

4. THE INSPECTORS' OBSERVATION THAT, "IT IS PLANNED TO MOVE
USAID NEARER TO THE EMBASSY, WHICH ITSELF WILL BE BUILDING
ADDITIONAL GSO FACILITIES AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME TIME
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(1980)", IS NO LONGER TRUE. A REPRESENTATIVE FROM A/FBO/NEA
VISITED THE POST IN EARLY AUGUST TO DISCUSS, AMONG OTHER THINGS,
CONSTRUCTION PLANS FOR NEUMANN FIELD, A LARGE VACANT TRACT
ADJACENT TO THE EMBASSY. FBO'S NEWLY PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR PLAN
FOR KABUL INCLUDES:

(A) CONSTRUCTION OF A COMMISSARY AND DISPENSARY IN FY 80.

CONSTRUCTION IS PLANNED TO BEGIN IN THE SPRING OF 1981
AND COMPLETION ESTIMATED SOMETIME IN 1982.

(B) CONSTRUCTION OF A UTILITY BUILDING WHICH WOULD
COMMENCE AT SOME POINT IN FY 81 MIGHT BE COMPLETED IN 1983.

5. ADDITIONALLY, ONCE AID DOES RELOCATE, THOUGHT WILL HAVE TO
BE GIVEN TO RELATED COSTS SUCH AS LEASING QUARTERS ON THIS SIDE
OF TOWN AND MOVING ALL AID PERSONNEL. BASED ON AVERAGE RENTS
ON BOTH SIDES OF TOWN, THE INCREASES IN RENTS COULD AMOUNT TO
AN ESTIMATED DOLS 104.00 PER HOUSE PER MONTH, OR AN INCREASE OF
DOLS 39,000 PER YEAR FOR THE 32 DIRECT-HIRE PERSONNEL NOW ON
BOARD.

6. IN SUM, BOTH USAID AND THE EMBASSY BELIEVE IT IS MUCH TOO
PREMATURE TO BEGIN THINKING OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JAO IN
KABUL. A BETTER TIME FRAME FOR PLANNING OR RECONSIDERATION
WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY SIX TO EIGHT MONTHS BEFORE THE PRESENT
USAID COMPOUND LEASE IS ALLOWED TO EXPIRE OR AT SUCH TIME AS
USAID NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN ALTERNATE SITE MATERIALIZE.
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